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CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Have You Read?

If you do not read SOCIAL ACTION, our monthly journal of information and comment on issues of concern to Christians, you are going to miss a great deal in the coming year. Just glance at these projected issues, yours for 25 cents a copy, or $2 for a year's subscription:

September—Recession: Causes and Cure
October—Churchman as Citizen
November—Human Rights—an Appraisal
December—The Population Explosion
January—Racial Practices of Churches
February—The Little Foxes
March—Stewardship and the Hidden Persuaders
April—What Is Happening to the Farmer?
May—Christian Burial

And if you missed some of our choice back numbers—or want to order them in quantity for your churchmen's fellowship, women's group, or study class—here are some you can still get while the supply lasts, at 25 cents each for single copies, ten or more at 20 cents, $15 per hundred:

May, 1957—Alcohol: A National Problem
October, 1957—Atomic Energy: Peril and Promise
November, 1957—Housing Without Racial Barriers
February, 1958—Christian Concern for the Public Schools
March, 1958—Christians and Government
April, 1958—Christian Perspective on Mass Communication
May, 1958—Christians and U. S. Foreign Policy

CALL FOR NEW ASIAN POLICY, OPPOSE BAN ON UNION SHOP

COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION SUPPORTS INTEGRATION PROGRAM

The Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ, at its semi-annual meeting held at Cleveland, Ohio, September 9-11, took action on a number of pressing issues. Meeting during the heat of the Quemoy crisis, the Council sent telegrams to President Eisenhower and to Secretary of State Dulles opposing United States involvement in the defense of the Chinese coastal islands and calling for a new policy in Asia. The telegram stated:

The Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ has consistently held that the United States must remain strong and alert in the face of the international Communist movement. Such strength is not solely military, and other factors, psychological, economic and diplomatic, are more important. The defense of Quemoy and the Matsu Islands seems to us unwise and unnecessary, on both military and these other

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THE CHURCH AND THE UNEMPLOYED

Suggestions for Action by Churches Related to Needs of Unemployed People

Prepared by the Department of the Church and Economic Life of the National Council of Churches

From the Christian viewpoint, involuntary unemployment is a basic injustice against each person and family suffering from it. It is also an obstacle to the fulfillment of Christian vocation through daily work. There must therefore be Christian concern over every worker who cannot find a job, no matter how small the number of such workers may be.

—From the Statement on *Christian Concern About Unemployment*, Adopted by The General Board, National Council of Churches, June 4, 1958.

Manifest a Christian Concern

When the above expression of concern for the victims of long-continued unemployment was adopted by the General Board, the Department of the Church and Economic Life was requested to provide suggestions of concrete ways by which churches and church people can give effect to the statement's call for understanding and action in local communities.

Obviously the first call upon any church is to make known its desire to be of help to its members and others in need of assistance and, by special services, to give spiritual guidance and sustenance. Ways and means of meeting needs of this type will be apparent to those regularly charged with responsibility for the spiritual welfare of the church's constituency.

Proposals for help with the economic and social problems and tensions generated by prolonged unemployment for

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CALL FOR NEW ASIAN POLICY, OPPOSE BAN ON UNION SHOP

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grounds, and a threat to the peace of the world. We also believe that our entire Far Eastern policy needs radical revision, including a new policy toward the Peiping government, together with international guarantees of the integrity and independence of Taiwan (Formosa).

Upon the recommendation of its subcommittee on economic life, the Council went on record as opposing legislation, adopted or proposed in a number of states, which would outlaw the union shop in labor-management agreements. Recognizing that labor unions have served important economic, human, and ethical services, the statement points out that the term "right to work" is a misleading description of the laws under consideration The Council resognizes that there are sincere Christians in our churches holding opposing points of view on the matter but agrees with the Executive Board of the Division of Christian Life and Work of the National Council of Churches that "union membership as a basis of continued employment should be neither required nor forbidden by law" but "left to agreement by management and labor through the process of collective bargaining."

In adopting the statement, the Council emphasized the responsibilities of unions enjoying the advantages of union shop contracts and recalled its own earlier statement on Corruption in Labor and Management which appeared in the February, 1958 issue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. The present statement was mailed in multilith form with the October issue of this newsletter, and additional copies may be secured for 2 cents from either the Cleveland or the New York office.

Missions and Social Action

A special feature of the meeting was a consultation on the common concerns of the Council for Christian Social Action and the foreign missions agencies of the United Church. Dr. Alford Carleton, executive vice-president of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, Dr. Dobbs Ehlman, executive secretary of the Board of International Missions, and Dr. Ray Phillips, moderator of the Congregational Christian General Council and a missionary of much experience in South Africa, interpreted the overseas work of the church and commented on a background paper prepared by Dr. Ray Gibbons, director of CCSA.

It was agreed that there should be frequent consultation between the staffs of the two agencies, that the experience of the missions boards might well be utilized by the Council's committee on international relations, and that the Council's studies, publications, and other resources in turn might be made more generally available to mission board members, staff, and overseas personnel. There was a strong feeling that the members of our churches need to be more aware that the work of the church in missionary and social witness is one.

Urge Alcohol Education

The Council reviewed the wide-ranging activities of its staff and the work of its committees. The committee on religion and education was encouraged to develop a leaflet on the importance of teaching as a Christian vocation and to cooperate with the Christian education agencies in preparing a denominational statement on the public school. At the prompting of the committee on social welfare, the Council voted to request the Division of Christian Life and Work of the National Council of Churches to develop an alcohol education program on the basis of the National Council's recently adopted statement of policy.

The projected program of education and action for racial desegregation in housing was examined. The Council voted to allocate $9,000 — *not* nine million dollars as erroneously, and flatteringly, reported in some press dispatches — for this purpose during the current year and to seek matching funds from agencies of other denominations. It was also announced that, because of the illness of her husband, Mrs. Pauline Puryear had resigned as race relations consultant in the North Carolina-Virginia project but that the project would be continued for another year with Miss Dorothy Hampton. There were appreciative testimonials from Southern leaders concerning the services of these "missionaries of reconciliation."

SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

November 4—Election Day.
November 10-11 — Consultation on the Church and the Farm Problem, Kirkwood Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa.
November 18-21—National Study Conference on the Church and World Order, National Council of Churches, Cleveland, Ohio.
January 18-24—Church and Economic Life Week.
February—United Church of Christ Month of Emphasis on Christian Social Action.
February 3-6 — Churchmen's Washington Seminar, Washington, D. C.
February 5-7—Council on Christian Social Action, Buck Hill Falls, Pa.
February 8—Race Relations Sunday.
March 31-April 2 — United Church of Christ Washington Seminar.
July 1-5—General Synod, Evangelical and Reformed Church, Oberlin, Ohio.
July 5-9—General Synod, United Church of Christ, Oberlin, Ohio.
July 9-11 — Council for Christian Social Action, Oberlin, Ohio.

News From Our Churches

Early in the year, First Congregational Church, Washington, D. C., held a well attended series of social action studies, with such themes as "Faith and Freedom —a Layman's Belief" (led by Attorney Frank S. Ketcham); "SUNFED vs. Satellites" (led by Mr. Neal Potter); and "The Heart Line in Integration."

The third was a unique program which could be adapted in many other places. It consisted of a dialogue between a modern twentieth century reader and President Abraham Lincoln. The reader told of efforts toward inclusiveness being made by churches in many communities, and replied to comments and questions raised by Mr. Lincoln.

First Church is located in the heart of downtown Washington, and is at present engaged in an extensive rebuilding program. From reading this dialogue we gather that building plans take into consideration some of the community service needs the church wants to meet in years to come.

The dialogue manuscript can be borrowed from a member of First Church's social action committee, Mrs. Maurine S. Burgess, 256 Park Avenue, Takoma Park 12, Md.

* * * *

The Women's Guild of the Federated Church (E&R-CC) Spencerville, Ohio, recently conducted a two-session program on race relations. In the afternoon, the regular Guild meeting consisted of a study of Liston Pope's *The Kingdom Beyond Caste,* led by a member of the staff of CCSA. In the evening, the Guild invited the men and women of the congregation to view and discuss the filmstrip, *Crossroad at Cedarmont.*

THE CHURCH AND THE UNEMPLOYED

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the community and for its individual victims are less apt to be a part of the usual experience of the churches and their people.

The suggestions which follow are for consideration by the council of churches, a local church, or a church-related group. What is here listed reflects the experience of a number of church agencies which have already undertaken to be of service in their communities. No effort has been made to be exhaustive in the number of the proposals or detailed in their exposition. The proposals are by way of suggestion only. Many adaptations and additional activities can be developed. In any situation the matter of prime importance is to manifest the Christian concern to serve those who are temporarily, or in some instances more permanently, in need.

Suggested Activities by Churches for Meeting Primarily ECONOMIC Needs

1. Become informed about the extent of unemployment in the community, and its causes and relation to economic conditions in the state and nation.

2. Be ready to act intelligently in regard to remedies proposed at municipal, state, and national levels, including acceptance of extended unemployment compensation.

3. Join actively (even propose, if necessary) community-wide efforts a) to generate or restore employment opportunities and b) to establish training programs where necessary for learning new trades, etc.

4. Cooperate with other agencies in developing emergency placement services.

5. Provide direct help to individuals by

   a) encouraging local churches singly or in cooperation with other churches to set up procedures for bringing together those who need work (even temporarily) with those who have employment to give.

   b) learning procedures whereby individuals can secure full benefits from unemployment compensation, supplemental unemployment benefits (where available), etc.

   c) organizing an "Unemployment Arbitration Committee" composed of bankers, merchants, social workers, credit union representatives, union leaders and members, to help debtors and creditors work out mutually agreeable and manageable terms on debts or loans during periods of unemployment. Also consider organizing church-related credit union.

   d) establishing a Church Emergency Fund: a "treasury" of $2000-$3000 which would be used as a revolving fund by unemployed church members when immediate cash was needed (not available otherwise) for family emergencies.

Suggested Procedures in Regard to SOCIAL or Other WELFARE Needs

1. Become informed regarding
   a) The effect of unemployment on both the services and resources of community welfare agencies.
   b) The extent of public relief load and problems involved in handling increasing requests for benefits.

2. Cooperate in community-wide efforts to aid families and other victims of extended unemployment.

3. Establish a committee on social services: a group of people who would contact community social service agencies to determine what help they provide for unemployed persons and what are the qualifications for such aid. This information could be put into a mimeographed leaflet as well as be available in counseling unemployed persons seeking specific kinds of help (medical care, food, housing, etc.)

4. Set up church facilities or provide information to clergy or other church groups to give help and guidance to unemployed members of individual churches and their families.

5. Develop "Neighborhood Aid Committees" composed of church members in specific neighborhood areas (both employed and unemployed) to provide aid and services for unemployed (baby-sittings, day nursery centers for parent job-seekers, etc.)

6. Develop or enlarge week-day educational or activity programs in local churches for
   a) youth groups, particularly those of working age who cannot find out-of-school employment, and
   b) parents or unemployed adults to help reduce growing marital tensions resulting from sustained periods of unemployment.

MORE ABOUT KOINONIA

Members of our churches have been much concerned about Koinonia Farm Community at Americus, Georgia. There are now forty-three residents. Several of these, including one family with ten children, are new members. Violence has subsided in spite of the hate campaign of one candidate for the governorship, who promised to get rid of Koinonia by the exercise of eminent domain. This individual, William T. Bodenhamer, pastor of a Baptist Church at Ty Ty, carried only three counties and lost Sumter County, in which Americus is located, by a vote of 2,337 to 604.

Writes the Rev. Clarence Jordan: "Pecan sales have contributed greatly to restoring our economic balance, so it would be a real help to us to stimulate as many orders as possible. The crop appears to be about normal. Harvesting will probably begin around October 15, and they should be dry enough for shelling and shipping by November 1. The price will be the same as last year: 5-lb. bag of pecans in the shell, $3; 10-lb., $5.75; 50-lb., $23; 100-lb., $45. Shelled pecans may be ordered in boxes of two, four, eight, and 24 one-pound cellophane bags, for $1.50 a pound (halves) or $1.35 a pound (pieces). In bulk, the prices are somewhat lower."

Check or money order with shipping instructions should be sent to Koinonia Farms, Americus, Georgia. They may be mailed as Christmas gifts to your friends' addresses.

KEEPING UP WITH THE STAFF

A quick run-down of some of the dates members of the staff of CCSA will be filling in the next few weeks is given below. Pastors and leaders in churches in these areas who might want to use their services, are invited to write to them or to the respective synod or conference social action chairman.

Fern Babcock: November 7—Scarsdale, N. Y. November 14—Stamford, Conn.

Ray Gibbons: November 4-7—Fall Association Meetings in North Carolina. November 15 to 16—Manchester, Conn.

Huber Klemme: November 10-12 — Des Moines, Iowa.

Chester Marcus: November 1-2—Buffalo, N. Y.; Nov. 6-8—Pottstown, Pa.; Nov. 14-17—Detroit, Mich.

Herman Reissig: October 26-November 2—Lancaster Synod. November 18-21 — Cleveland, Ohio.

Nelsen Schlegel: October 25-November 9—Nebraska and Iowa Conferences, Midwest Synod. January — Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California.

Galen Weaver: November 18-20—So. Dakota. November 21—Pittsburgh. November 24—Flushing, N. Y.

OF INTEREST TO MINISTERS

Much has been said and printed in recent years on Social Security coverage for ministers. Conversation with individual ministers indicates that there is still considerable lack of understanding on the subject. We believe the following paragraphs will help to answer many questions.

1. Electing Coverage.

Ministers elect coverage by filing form IRS-2031 (waiver certificate). These forms are available at the local Social Security offices or Bureau of Internal Revenue.

2. When Should the Certificate Be Filed?

The certificate should be filed no later than April 15, 1959 for all ministers having $400 or more net income in at least 2 years prior to 1959. In effect, this means that all ordained ministers who have not yet done so should file their waiver certificate by April 15, 1959 if they desire coverage. Ministers newly ordained should file certificates within two years following ordination.

3. Minimum Income and Maximum Income.

A minister who has elected coverage must have at least $400 net income during the taxable year from the exercise of his ministry to receive credit for it. Social Security taxes are not paid on any amount of net earnings exceeding $4200 for the year. The present tax is 3⅜% on earnings up to this amount. However, beginning with the calendar year 1959 (tax due April 15, 1960)) social security tax will be paid on net earnings up to $4800 and at the rate of 3¾%.

4. What Is Included in Gross Income?

The salary and honorariums received by a minister for officiating at weddings, christenings, funerals, and other services are included in gross income. All of these items are normally subject to income as well as social security taxes.

5. What About Parsonage, Rental Allowances, Room and Board?

These items are normally excluded in determining Income Tax. However, the value of these items may be included as income in determining net earnings for Social Security purposes. The effective date of this amendment is for taxable years ending on, or after, December 31, 1957.

6. What Are Considered Expenses In Determining Net Income?

The ordinary and necessary business expenses, including travel expenses in the performance of the minister's duties, are deductible. The cost of such items as vestments, stationery, and stenographic help also fall in this category.

7. What About the Recent Changes In the Social Security Law?

On August 29, President Eisenhower signed a bill which increased the payments of social security beneficiaries on an average of 7%. This is effective beginning January, 1959. In addition, there are changes affecting dependents of disabled workers, dependent parents of deceased workers, increase in tax rates, and many others.

8. Where Can the Minister Secure Information on This Subject?

The Social Security Administration has more than 500 district offices throughout the United States and its possessions. All are equipped to answer questions, take applications, and administer the provisions of the Social Security law. In addition, there are over 3,000 contact stations where representatives from district offices call regularly. The local postmaster will be happy to give information regarding the location of the nearest contact station or district office.

* * * *

The above statement was prepared for readers of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY *by Carl Campbell of the Cleveland office of the Social Security Administration, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.*

ANNOUNCE TOURS

This past summer, 17 people accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Galen Weaver to Europe and a like number accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Huber Klemme to Mexico in travel seminars sponsored by the CCSA. Both groups report experiences that were both interesting and informational. Tours to the Middle East and to Mexico are being planned for next summer.

The Board for Home Missions is also conducting a tour — this one to Puerto Rico, January 5 to 15. The tour leaves New York via Eastern Air Lines, at 11:30 p. m., on January 5, and returns, leaving San Juan, P. R., at 11:30 p. m., January 15. Visits will be made to churches, community centers, medical and welfare programs in which our church has a personal interest.

Cost of the tour is $225, and there are plans to include a trip to the Virgin Islands. The Reverend Walter Giersbach will direct the group. Full details may be secured from the Reverend Ralph Shrader, 14 Beacon St., Boston 8, Massachusetts.

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Ray Gibbons, Director
Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor
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